

REMARKS

Presently Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected as anticipated by EP 771. The rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner focuses on seal 54. Seal 54 spans between two flanges 36 and 46 that are bolted to each other. Seal 54 does not need to reach surface 16 and in fact doesn't do so in Figures 3 and 4 as seen not only by the gap between seal 54 and surface 16 but also by the presence of other seals for that very function namely 43a and the two unnumbered seals on ring 140. The structure of this reference doesn't have a seal that spans an annular gap between members that move relatively with respect to each other. The flanges are bolted to each other precluding relative movement between them. The seal 54 doesn't span an annular gap to surface 16. Claims 6 and 15 are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 11 is rejected as anticipated by Fontenot. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 11 has been clarified to indicate that the compression on assembly extends along the longitudinal axis from one end to the other. In Fontenot Figure 3 rings 67 and 69 are held at a fixed distance by intervening rings 60 and 62 and a spacer 64 between them. While rings 67 and 69 contact a "peninsula" of seal 58 that ends in a square shape, that contact can't transmit a force through the longitudinal axis to the main body of seal 58 because the stack of rings 60 and 62 separated by spacer 64 prevent such transmission of force. In reality the design of Fontenot with the "peninsula" shape on either end and the square termination are simply devices intended to contain the upper and lower extremities against a radial force from passage 66. There is simple not a word of discussion in the specification showing recognition of any benefit to compress the seal along its longitudinal axis from end to end as stated in claim 11. It is submitted that this

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minor clarification has introduced no new issues requiring further search and that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.




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